

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A girdle for surrounding a plurality of chordae tendinae comprising:

a filamentous body comprising a shape memory material to allow a transition between a linear delivery configuration and an annular treatment configuration, wherein in the annular treatment configuration the filamentous body comprises an inner diameter having a size to contact the plurality of chordae tendinae and to draw the plurality of chordae tendinae closer together to form a bundle of effectively shortened ~~chordae~~ chordae tendinae.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The girdle of claim 1 wherein the shape memory material is a material chosen from a group consisting of: a nitinol alloy, a stainless steel, a cobalt-based alloy, ~~an MP35N alloy, an Elgiloy alloy,~~ an engineering plastic, an amide, a polyimide, a polyolefin, a polyester, a urethane, a thermoplastic, a thermoset plastic, and a blend, a laminate and a copolymer of the above materials.

Claim 3 (original): The girdle of claim 1 wherein the annular treatment configuration of the girdle has a shape selected from a group consisting of: a ring, a hollow conical frustum, a hollow cylinder, a hollow hourglass, an open coil, a closed coil, and a combination of the above shapes.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A system for treating a heart valve comprising:  
an elongate delivery catheter having a lumen; and

a girdle having an annular treatment configuration sized and shaped to surround a plurality of chordae tendinae of the heart valve and to draw the plurality of chordae tendinae closer together to form a bundle of effectively shortened ~~chordae~~ chordae tendinae, the girdle having a linear delivery configuration sized and shaped to be releasably disposed within the lumen of the delivery catheter

wherein the girdle comprises an elongate body having first and second ends; and a locking mechanism for locking the girdle in the annular treatment configuration.

Claim 5 to Claim 8 (cancelled):

Claim 9 (currently amended): The system of claim [[8]] 4 wherein the locking mechanism comprises:

a first hook disposed adjacent the first end; and

a second hook disposed adjacent the second end and adapted for engagement with the first hook.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The system of claim [[8]] 4 further comprising:  
an elongate tether releasably attached to the girdle.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The system of claim [[8]] 4 wherein the elongate body comprises an elastic material.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The system of claim [[8]] 4 wherein the locking mechanism comprises:

a lock portion disposed at the first end, the lock portion having a lumen for receiving the second end; and

at least one tooth disposed adjacent the second end and adapted for engagement with the lock portion.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method for treating a heart valve, the method comprising:

delivering a girdle in a lumen of a catheter adjacent the heart valve, the girdle having a locking mechanism;

releasing the girdle; [[and]]

encircling a plurality of chordae tendinae of the heart valve with the girdle; and locking the girdle into a treatment configuration.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein delivering the girdle comprises positioning the catheter proximate a plurality of chordae tendinae of the heart valve.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein delivering the girdle in a lumen of a catheter comprises inserting the catheter percutaneously.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein the catheter is inserted percutaneously and advanced transluminally to a left ventricle through an aortic valve.